

BRECON RURAL DISTRICT.Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.1941.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1941. This is again very restricted and is prepared on the lines indicated in Circulars 2314 (Wales) and 2067 (Wales). At the request of the Welsh Board of Health no reference is made in connection with war time industrial, military, or other important developments, such as extensions of water supplies or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings. This report is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year the following notifications of cases of infectious disease were received. These refer to civilian cases only.

Measles.....	122	cases.	
Scarlet Fever.....	9	cases.	
Pneumonia.....	1	case.	
Whooping Cough.....	13	cases.	
Food Poisoning.....	2	cases.	
Dysentery.....	9	cases.	
Acute anterior Poliomyelitis.	1	case.	Undulant Fever. 1 case.
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	case.	

The measles cases formed part of a large epidemic which affected the greater part of the County. The cases were of a mild type. The food poisoning cases occurred in one house and were caused by *Salmonella Aertryche*. The cause of these two cases was not discovered.

The dysentery cases were secondary cases caused probably by other cases which occurred in Brecon Borough.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

In January, 1941, the campaign of providing protection against diphtheria was commenced. This was adequately advertised and all the schools in my district were visited by me on three occasions when the injections were given.

A modified procedure was adopted later in the year when, owing to the fact that the majority of the children were immunised on the first occasion, they were asked on the second occasion to attend at a certain definite time and place.

This method is proving very satisfactory and the response is very good.

A.P.T. was used and it was found that the reactions were very slight, being limited to occasional soreness and pain at the site of injection and sometimes a slight rise of temperature. No abscess was seen.

The following figures show the number of children immunised and the percentages.

Under 5 years.....	889	68.5%.
Over 5 years.....	3243	84%.

All children between the ages of 1 year and 15 years were given the chance to become immune and it is proposed to provide the same facilities in the summer of each year in future. The above figures are the total for the Combined Northern Districts.

Your obedient Servant, T.C.R. GEORGE. Medical Officer of Health.

